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Dear producers and other data users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

Mark Harris
State Statistician

Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on hand January 1, 2004, in Nebraska totaled 6.25 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago.

All cows on hand January 1, at 1.91 million head, were 4 percent below last year. The 2003 calf crop totaled 1.77 million head, down 3 percent from 2002.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1 were 2.45 million head up 7 percent from last year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2004, totaled 94.9 million head, 1 percent below a year ago.

All cows and heifers that calved, at 41.9 million, were down 1 percent from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003. The 2003 calf crop was estimated at 37.9 million head, down 1 percent from last year.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1 were 13.8 million head up 4 percent from last year.

Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop, Nebraska and United States, January 1, 2002-2004

Class	Nebraska				United States ¹			
	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Cattle and calves	6,400	6,200	6,250	101	96,704	96,100	94,882	99
Cows and heifers that have calved	2,000	2,000	1,910	96	42,229	42,125	41,851	99
Beef cows	1,932	1,934	1,848	96	33,118	32,983	32,860	100
Milk cows	68	66	62	94	9,112	9,142	8,991	98
Heifers 500 pounds and over	1,730	1,690	1,820	108	19,678	19,629	19,341	99
For beef cow replacement	285	280	280	100	5,561	5,624	5,517	98
For milk cow replacement	25	20	20	100	4,060	4,114	4,020	98
Other heifers	1,420	1,390	1,520	109	10,057	9,891	9,804	99
Steers 500 pounds and over	2,120	2,000	2,120	106	16,790	16,554	16,280	98
Bulls 500 pounds and over	100	100	90	90	2,244	2,248	2,206	98
Calves under 500 pounds	450	410	310	76	15,763	15,545	15,204	98
	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002
Calves born	1,820	1,820	1,770	97	38,280	38,224	37,903	99

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle, January 30, 2004.

Cattle On Feed

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

Nebraska feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head contained 2.28 million cattle on feed on January 1, up 7 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2002. Placements of cattle into feedlots during December totaled 350,000 head, up 3 percent from 2002 and 17 percent above 2001. Fed cattle marketings for the month of December totaled 340,000 head, down 8 percent from last year but 5 percent above December two years ago. Other disappearance during December totaled 10,000 head compared with 10,000 head during December 2002 and 15,000 head during December 2001.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 6 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on January 1, 2004. The inventory was 6 percent above January 1, 2003 but 3 percent below January 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.75 million, 10 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during December, 9 percent below 2002 and 3 percent below 2001.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2002-2004

State	January 1 Number on Feed ¹			December Placements			December Marketings			December Other Disappearance ²		
	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> <u>2002</u>	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> <u>2002</u>	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> <u>2002</u>
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Arizona	289	293	101	25	32	128	27	22	81	4	1	25
California	490	510	104	55	70	127	55	55	100	10	5	50
Colorado	1,020	1,040	102	145	180	124	185	190	103	10	10	100
Idaho	295	300	102	44	53	120	47	60	128	2	3	150
Iowa	355	370	104	65	50	77	59	48	81	1	2	200
Kansas	2,200	2,430	110	390	410	105	470	435	93	20	25	125
Nebraska	2,140	2,280	107	340	350	103	370	340	92	10	10	100
New Mexico	119	115	97	12	14	117	15	17	113	1	3	300
Oklahoma	330	355	108	34	53	156	41	45	110	3	3	100
So. Dakota	205	200	98	38	31	82	27	30	111	1	1	100
Texas	2,630	2,830	108	360	420	117	400	410	103	30	20	67
Washington	185	195	105	32	30	94	40	38	95	2	2	100
Other States	335	330	99	55	55	100	65	50	77	5	5	100
United States	10,593	11,248	106	1,595	1,748	110	1,801	1,740	97	99	90	91

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, January 16, 2004.

Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, Nebraska, 20 States and United States, 2002-2003

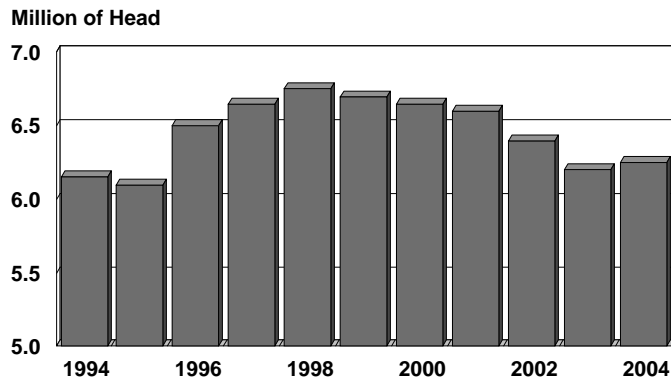
Item and Quarter	Nebraska		20 States		United States	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>	
Milk cows ¹						
July-September	67	63	7,782	7,753	9,153	9,064
October-December	66	62	7,794	7,712	9,148	9,007
	<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	
Milk production ²						
July-September	283	268	36,152	36,098	41,791	41,520
October-December	290	270	35,938	35,879	41,555	41,322

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

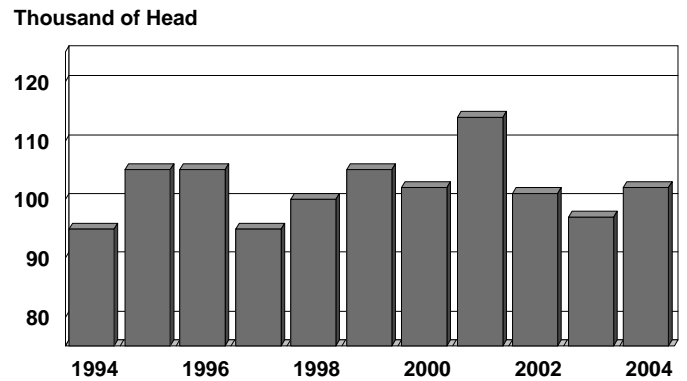
Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, January 16, 2004.

NEBRASKA CATTLE INVENTORY
January 1, 2004



Source: USDA Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service

NEBRASKA SHEEP INVENTORY
January 1, 2004



Source: USDA Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service

**Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, January 1, 2003-2004 and
Lamb Crop, Nebraska and United States, January 1, 2002-2003**

State	Total Breeding Sheep & Lambs		Total Market Sheep & Lambs		All Sheep & Lambs		Breeding Ewes 1 Year & Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1		Lamb Crop	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>						<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>	
Nebraska	77	81	20	21	97	102	58	63	145	140	84	88
United States	4,658	4,480	1,642	1,610	6,300	6,090	3,980	3,770	109	109	4,357	4,120

Source: USDA NASS Sheep and Goats, January 30, 2004.

Poultry

During December 2003, layers in Nebraska totaled 11.7 million birds, an increase of 1 percent from the previous year. The total number of layers in the United States during December 2003 averaged 339 million, down 1 percent from December 2002.

**Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and
United States, December 2003 with Comparisons**

Item	2002	2003	2003/2002
	<i>Millions</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.6	11.7	101
30 States	318.3	315.7	99
United States	340.3	338.5	99
Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	251	268	107
30 States	6,966	7,021	101
United States	7,451	7,531	101
Chickens Hatched			
United States			
Egg-type	32.0	33.9	106
Broiler	753.9	778.2	103
Hatched thru December			
United States			
Egg-type	421.3	415.8	99
Broiler	9,079.0	9,077.2	100

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, January 30, 2004.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

December 2003 output and changes from last year and last month are shown below. December 2002 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

**Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and
United States, December 2003 with Comparisons**

Item	Total ¹ (1,000)	Dec. 2003 percent of	
		Dec. 2002	Nov. 2003
Nebraska	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	555.4	94	114
Hogs, head	614.1	101	108
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	555.5	93	114
United States			
Cattle, head	2,668.2	96	110
Calves, head	97.5	99	125
Hogs, head	9,346.6	108	109
Sheep & Lambs, head	262.0	94	111
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,876.0	100	110

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, January 23, 2004.

Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 111, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) below the December index. Lower prices received for cattle, lettuce, milk, and tomatoes more than offset higher prices for broilers, soybeans, corn, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index.

Increased average marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, grapes, tobacco, and cottonseed.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (11 percent) from January 2003. The Food Commodities Index, at 112, is 3 points (2.6 percent) below last month but 14 points (14 percent) above January 2003.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary January 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Jan 2003 ¹	Dec 2003 ¹	Jan 15, 2004	Jan 2003 ¹	Dec 2003 ¹	Jan 15, 2004	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
<i>Dollars</i>					<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat, All	Bushel	3.70	3.52	3.60	3.89	3.69	3.73	38	9.75
Corn	Bushel	2.32	2.28	2.40	2.33	2.32	2.46	38	6.55
Oats	Bushel	2.04	1.40	1.40	2.04	1.58	1.50	39	3.82
Grain Sorghum	Cwt	4.26	4.14	4.30	4.12	4.21	4.44	42	10.60
Soybeans	Bushel	5.39	7.14	7.75	5.51	7.17	7.82	51	15.40
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	85.00	53.00	52.00	91.40	81.30	79.30		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	86.00	54.00	53.00	98.50	87.90	83.60		
Other, Baled	Ton	78.00	50.00	47.00	78.10	66.90	71.40		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt	16.40	15.40	15.60	16.40	17.20	17.40	34	50.50
Hogs	Cwt	34.40	36.20	37.80	33.00	34.20	35.70	35	102.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt	34.70	36.40	38.00	33.50	34.60	36.10		
Sows	Cwt	22.10	27.90	27.50	22.20	28.10	28.80		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	76.30	98.60	83.30	73.20	90.50	77.40	47	165.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	77.50	100.00	84.40	77.80	95.70	81.20		
Cows	Cwt	37.50	51.80	46.60	36.90	49.40	45.80		
Calves	Cwt	101.00	123.00	118.00	96.80	112.00	105.00	48	221.00
Sheep	Cwt	40.00	38.80		41.30	44.40			81.20
Lambs	Cwt	88.50	90.50		92.00	98.40			195.00

¹ Entire month average except hay.

² Parity price based on data for January 2004.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, January 30, 2004.

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